

## CHARITY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT REPORT TO CORPORATE TRUSTEE

This report provides the Trustees with key escalation and discussion points at the last Committee meeting. A full list of items discussed appears at the end of the report to enable members to raise any questions to the Chair which have not been drawn out in the report. The papers for this meeting can be found by following this [link](#) to the Committee page on the Trust website.

<b>Corporate Trustee Meeting Date</b>	29 January 2026
<b>Committee Meeting Date</b>	13 January 2026
<b>Chair</b>	Peter Curran

### KEY ESCALATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS

#### ALERT

(Alert the Trustees to areas of attention)

#### Charity Annual Report and Accounts for 2024-25

1. The committee endorsed the Charity Annual Report and Accounts for 2024-25 and recommend them for approval by the Corporate Trustee. These documents are presented to the Trustee at its meeting on the 29 January 2026.
2. The key points to note within the accounts are as follows. These amounts were largely anticipated and planned:
  - £66.8k income during the year
  - £246.5k expenditure during the year
  - net COIF Investment loss of £5.5k
  - resulting in net movement in funds of £185k
  - a prior period adjustment of £8.4k made to correctly represent a newly identified restricted fund received via a legacy in 2011/12
3. Audit Wales attended to present their Independent Examination of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2024/25. There were no issues identified with only two minor disclosure amendments required. Subject to approval by the Corporate Trustee on 29 January 2026 the accounts will be certified by the Auditor General for Wales. The Charity Annual Return, which includes submission of the Annual Report and Accounts, will be made to the Charity Commission no later than the 31 January 2026, with confirmation being sent to the Chair of this committee of a successful submission.
4. The teams were commended on the preparation of the accounts and the annual report which were clear and provided an excellent overview of the significant work of the charity this year.

## Charity Financial Plans 2026-29

5. The committee reviewed and endorsed the charity's income and expenditure plans for 2026-2029, with the 2026-27 budget of £16,140 towards core fundraising costs, delegated to the Head of Charity and recommend them for approval by the Corporate Trustee. These documents are presented to the Trustee at its meeting on the 29 January 2026.
6. The projected income is expected to reach around £225,000 in 2026-27, of which £115,271 is unrestricted or designated, with future growth anticipated through regular giving streams such as payroll giving and lotteries. The planned deficit for 2026-27 was clarified because of the intention of spending restricted funds during 2026-27 - not overspending; and it was agreed that use of language should reflect net cash outflow as opposed to deficits.
7. The charity's voluntary donations have increased by 108% between October 2024-September 2025 versus the previous 12 months. The charity is on track to reach its 2025-26 projection for voluntary donations of £43,813, which is a 208% increase compared to voluntary donations in 2024-25. This is in addition to the new grant income of £157,823 from NHS Charities Together received in 2024-25.

## ADVISE

(Detail any areas of on-going monitoring, approvals, or new developments to be communicated)

8. Members welcomed **Michelle Morgan** who shared her lived experience of **raising funds in aid of the charity by running the Cardiff Half Marathon**. Michelle presented her personal journey of taking up running in early 2024, progressing from being unable to run 200 meters to completing a half marathon and raising over £335 in aid of the WAST charity. She described how joining Parkrun and a local running club significantly improved her confidence, well-being, and social connections, and how she became an ambassador for 5K Your Way race, supporting others in recovery. Michelle highlighted the positive impact of these activities on her physical and mental health, as well as her increased confidence and productivity at work. In the subsequent discussion, committee members commended Michelle's achievements and explored ways to encourage wider staff participation in charity and well-being activities, suggesting improved communication, leveraging existing staff networks, and integrating charity promotion with broader well-being initiatives. The committee recognised the value of staff-led fundraising and the importance of supporting and amplifying such efforts across the organisation.
9. A new **Code of Fundraising Practice** came into effect from 1 November 2025. As the Charity has voluntarily registered with the Fundraising Regulator, it must comply with the new code, which is driven by four key principles, i.e.. that all fundraising by participating charities must be legal, open, honest and respectful. The Charity has considered these changes to the Code and will ensure that the new Code is referenced to maintain compliance as the Charity continues to strengthen its governance procedures over the coming months.
10. Members **reflected** that the meeting was productive and open, acknowledging the ongoing challenge of balancing strategic and operational discussions. There was agreement to consider adjusting the format of reporting to the committee to avoid duplication. The committee also discussed ensuring the agenda aligns with its current maturity, possibly through an internal leadership group. The very high

quality of the reporting to the committee by colleagues was reiterated.

## ASSURE

(Detail here any areas of assurance the Committee has received)

### Charity Strategy Delivery Plan

11. The committee was updated on progress against the Charity Delivery Plan approved in July 2025. Key achievements to note since October 2024 include:
  - an increase in voluntary donations of 108% between Oct 2024 – Sept 2025, compared to the previous 12-month period
  - two new grants from NHS Charities Together, totalling £157,823, from the Community Resilience and Greener Communities Funds (see further below)
  - delivering the Charity Sports Fund scheme, which reached around 1 in 10 WAST staff members
12. The committee were assured that 27 of the 39 tasks in the plan have either been completed or are on schedule to be completed. Of the 8 tasks that have been rescheduled, 5 of these are due to the delayed appointment of the Charity's Fundraising and Communications Officer and are due to be completed by March 2026.
13. Members heard that Wish Ambulance is currently a strong candidate for lottery funding, but that there were other opportunities arising from IMTP to match Trust priorities with available grants where appropriate.
14. The Corporate Trustee will be aware that the WAST Charity Strategic Objectives are:
  - SO1:** The Charity will help WAST to support the wellbeing and development of its staff and volunteers, resulting in a healthier, happier and more experienced workforce
  - SO2:** The Charity will support WAST to build community resilience throughout Wales
  - SO3:** The Charity will support WAST to provide enhanced patient care, through additional projects and/or capital investment, and through testing new models of delivery

### Charity Performance Report

15. The committee was assured with respect to performance against grants and learnings taken from application of grant funding and was given an overview of further grant opportunities. It was noted that NHS Charities Together has shifted from providing allocated pandemic-related funds to a more competitive grant process, with reduced funding available. Future funding from NHS Charities Together will require stronger, more competitive bids, and the charity must be agile in seeking alternative funding opportunities.
16. Notwithstanding the above, the Charity was successful in being awarded grants from NHS Charities Together of £142K as part of the community resilience fund, and £15,823 as part of the greener communities fund. The £142K will support the Trust's work on cardiac arrest response - particularly focused on improving ROSC (return of spontaneous circulation) rates in areas of health inequality, whilst the £15,823 will fund a new project to create a new green space at Ty Elwy, designed to improve staff wellbeing and biodiversity on the site.

17. Fundraising during the quarter has included our volunteers collecting at the two performances of Sleeping Beauty, staff running the Cardiff 10K and half marathons, and a family's fundraising efforts with the Wish ambulance in memory of their late mother, Karen Schiebe.

### **Charity Finance Update**

18. Members noted that the balance of funds held as of 30 November 2025 is £840,622 comprised of £217,971 unrestricted funds; £186,959 in designated funds; and £435,692 in restricted funds. Between 01 April 2025 and 30 November 2025, the unit price of the charity's investments has increased by 2.26% resulting in an overall small gain of .c£6. The charity currently holds 1,090.14 units at a unit price of £257.6636, giving a total market value of c£280k. The committee recognised that the low level of investment returns reflected the low risk appetite and long-term nature of the investments. The position with regards to the designated funds for the Head of Chairty and Fundraising Officer posts was noted.

### **Bids Panel**

19. The committee approved the provision of Christmas dinners, festive food and refreshments for staff and volunteers working over the Christmas period in the amount of £18,700 by Chair's Action on the 06 November 2025. This was ratified at today's meeting.
20. The committee approved an update to the Bids Panel expenditure guidance and eligibility criteria for applications.
21. The AAA reports from the Bids Panel for October and December 2025 were received noting that there was one bid over £5,000 (Christmas dinners above) which the committee approved by Chair's Action given that it was time sensitive. Two other bids were approved by the Bids Panel relating to a replacement television and portable fans, with the total awarded being £2,126.
22. The **Bursary Panel** reconvened in January after an inquorate meeting in December and reviewed 20 submissions, approving four that fully met the criteria, with one application likely to be funded through an alternative route to maximise individual benefit. The Bursary Policy is being refreshed and current spend is forecast at between 66% to 77% of the budget, depending on alternative funding decisions. A point for further consideration is the way in which funding is balanced between the Bursary and the Bids Panels, noting the high cost of academic courses, the importance of ensuring fairness in tight financial conditions, and the need to sustain funding for broader staff benefits.
23. The committee held the first part of its **Quality Governance Review** (formerly effectiveness review) for 2025/26. The committee is valued for its strong support and scrutiny of the charity's delivery plan, open discussion about achievements and challenges, and high levels of engagement underpinned by good quality papers. Members recognise a growing sense of ambition, and the committee's organisation, including well planned diary dates and timely circulation of papers, contributes to effective and productive meetings. No changes were proposed to the committee's terms of reference given the extensive review and amendments made in 2024/25 and they are before the Corporate Trustee for approval at **annex 1**.

24. Members received the **Committee Priorities** and **Cycle of Business Monitoring** report and were assured that there were no matters to escalate regarding the Committee's priorities for 2025/26 and the monitoring report was received.

## RISKS

**Risks discussed:** The charity's risk register was received, as well as the current controls and gaps in controls. The committee was assured as to the actions being progressed to mitigate the risks. The risks are as follows:

- Risk CHAR-003 - lack of compliance with legal and regulatory framework with a current risk score of 10 (2x5)
- Risk CHAR-005 - lack of internal processes and governance structures in place to meet the conditions of grants with a current risk score of 6 (2x3)
- Risk CHAR-008 - failure to raise sufficient funds to deliver the Charity's strategic objectives with a current risk score of 12 (3x4)

**New Risks Identified:** N/A

## COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR MEETING

Charity Annual report and accounts 2024/25 and independent examination report from Audit Wales 2024/25	Bids panel lived experience	Charity strategy delivery paper
Charity performance update	Charity funds finance update	Charity financial plans 2026-29
Bids panel expenditure guidance	2025/26 quality governance review	Risk management
Bids panel highlight reports (October and December)	Bursary panel highlight report	Committee priorities and cycle of business

## COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

Name	2 April 2025	3 July 2025	2 October 2025	13 January 2025
Peter Curran (Chair)				
Ceri Jackson				
Hannah Rowan				
Estelle Hitchon				
Chris Turley			Ed Roberts	
Lee Brooks		Mark Harris		From item 7 to 13
Andy Swinburn				
Liz Rogers	From Finance Item		Sara Williams	
Trish Mills				
Hugh Parry			Left meeting at 09:30	

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE				
Name	2 April 2025	3 July 2025	2 October 2025	13 January 2025
Damon Turner			Left meeting at 09:30	
Marcus Viggers	From Performance Item		Left meeting at 09:30	
Julie Boalch				
Jo Kelso				
David Hopkins				
Leanne Smith			Attended for item 11	
Jackie Hatton-Bell				
Andrew Cotton				
Matt Dugdale				

	Attended
	Deputy attended
	Apologies received
	No longer member/not member